Reconstruction of Houses in Cyclone Affected Areas in Orrissa

629. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken steps to reconstruct housing units in the cyclone-affected areas in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of housing units proposed to be reconstructed; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation is assisting Government of Orissa in reconstructing the dwelling units in the cyclone hit areas by:

(i) (a) Arranging financial assistance through HUD CO to the extent of Rs. 187.50 crores as soft loan for reconstruction of 75000 dwelling units at a concessional interest rate of 10% through Orissa Rural Housing Development Corporation.

(b) HUDCO has also sanctioned Rs. 300 crores as housing building loan to Govt, employees in Orissa who were victim of this super cyclone.

(ii) Providing grant of Rs. 75 lakhs for setting up of 5 special building centres. These centres will impart training in disaster resistant construction techniques for construction of safer houses.

(iii) Grant of Rs. 1.40 crore for development of four worst hit villages as model villages. Those villages would have necessary infrastructure facilities.

(iv) Educating people on building technology for safer construction. Pamphlets and guidelines have been brought out both in English and Oriya. These technologies are cost effective and provide houses that can withstand high wind pressure.